



Reservoir High School
Concert Choir
Syllabus and Grading Policy
Dr. Knauf



OBJECTIVES

The goals of this course are to develop healthy vocal technique; increase knowledge of musical terminology, style, theory, and history; and to strengthen the musical reading and listening skills of each individual singer. These goals will be met through ensemble and solo discovery of a variety of musical genres, periods, languages, and cultures in rehearsals and performances as well as through class ear training. In addition to the development of musical abilities, it is hoped that through active participation in the class and music program in general, students will develop positive attitudes toward themselves and others and a strong spirit of cooperation.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Pencil
- Assigned music and folder
- Notebook or section of a notebook for notes/journaling

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

- **RESPECT** should be shown to each and every singer in the ensemble, to student leaders, and to the director; we work as a team towards the goal of creating excellent music! Support and encourage each other in every way possible.
- Be seated in your assigned seat with music and pencil ready by the sound of the bell. Put your music in the order as it is listed on the board.
- If you zone out, you miss out! Be prepared with your music open to the correct page during rehearsal and pay attention to what is being rehearsed, even if your section is not singing...you can learn from what the other singers in the room are doing!
- Always perform! Don't wait until the concert to sing your best. Make every rehearsal count! You will perform in concert only as well as you practice.
- Dedicate regular time outside of class reviewing and practicing vocal technique and the assigned music. Take your music home and daily review what was covered in class. Practice solfège exercises and work on warm-ups as well. You will improve so much more if you work on these skills consistently outside of class.
- Students will memorize all music for concert performance.
- Demonstrate consistent effort and be engaged in the rehearsal. Ask questions when clarification or help is needed.
- Maintain proper posture when singing.
- Only lunch choir singers can bring food/drink into the choral room during class. Water bottles are allowed. No gum.
- The RHS electronics and dress code policies will be enforced. No phones during rehearsal, unless given permission.
- Please do not wear perfume or cologne, but do wear deodorant! We rehearse in a close environment, so please be respectful of your neighbors.
- If you are suffering from a temporary sore throat or loss of voice, notify Dr. Knauf at the beginning of class. You are still expected to participate in all non-vocal activities during rehearsal, which includes physical, non-vocal warm-ups and following and marking the music. Sleeping, reading, or doing other homework will not be allowed. If you are too sick to participate, you will be sent to the nurse and will need to make up any missed work.
- Music is the property of the school; keep it in the best possible condition. Students are responsible for the cost of replacing any lost or damaged music.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance is required at every rehearsal of the ensemble, whether during the regular class period or during afternoon/evening rehearsals. If you know you will be absent for a specific rehearsal for a legitimate reason, please notify Dr. Knauf **in writing** as far in advance as possible, **no later than one week before the absence**. You are responsible for learning any material covered and making up any work assigned.
- If you have more than two unexcused absences from after school rehearsals leading up to a concert, you may not be able to perform in that concert, severely affecting your quarterly grade, and you may be removed from participating in the Spring Trip.

- Attendance at rehearsals during concert weeks is *mandatory*. If you miss a rehearsal during a concert week, except in emergency or religious situations, or approved RHS athletic conflicts, you will not be permitted to sing in the concert. *You will still be expected to attend the concert*, but will not be allowed to perform, thus lowering your grade.
- Attendance at all performances is mandatory. If you know you will be absent from a concert for an approved reason, including RHS athletic conflicts, Dr. Knauf must receive a written note from your parents at least one week in advance. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of your performance grade. **Unexcused absence from a performance will severely affect your quarterly grade.**

CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT MISBEHAVIOR INCLUDING LATENESS TO CLASS

It is the expectation that each student in the ensemble participates and contributes in a positive manner. A student who creates disruptions, behaves in a negative or non-courteous manner to any fellow student or the director, or fails to follow the class expectations, including lateness to class, will earn the following consequences:

- First violation: Student/staff member conference
- Second violation: Parent contact – SIR
- Third violation: Parent contact (oral or written) and detention - SIR
- Fourth & subsequent violations: Referral to administrator

GRADING POLICY

I. Performances/Dress Rehearsals 35%

Up to 100 points will be earned for each concert in which you perform, and up to 50 points will be earned for each dress rehearsal and concerts in which you don't perform. ***Attendance for the entire duration of all concerts is MANDATORY. Students are expected to attend all RHS Music Department concerts, even if your ensemble is not performing.***

To be successful in a concert and/or dress rehearsal means to:

- Arrive by the announced call time (to be early is to be on time!)
- Be dressed appropriately for the event. Concert attire is worn for concerts in which you are performing (but not dress rehearsals!) and dressy-casual when you are an audience member.
- Behave professionally. Stay focused when you are in rehearsal or performing.
- Be in the right place at the right time. When performing, stay with your ensemble. When an audience member, stay in the auditorium for all of the remaining performances.
- Demonstrate proper concert etiquette. This includes turning off cell-phones (even better, don't bring them in the auditorium), remaining silent during performances, leaving to use the bathroom only in-between musical selections when there is applause (preferably you should wait until intermission), and most importantly, supporting your fellow musicians!

Points will be deducted from the performance grade for not meeting the above expectations.

II. Rehearsal Skills/Participation 40%

Students will earn up to 10 points for daily rehearsals, based upon the following rubric:

Points earned	Rehearsal Skills
9-10	Student is on time. Very good to excellent participation. † Excellent preparation: has music, pencil, and notebook.
7-8	Unexcused tardy with excellent participation OR Good participation overall, Fair preparation: no pencil, Chewing gum, or eating food (except for lunch choir)
5-6	Poor preparation: no music and/or notebook Fair participation
1-4	Student is unprepared: no music, pencil, and/or notebook Poor participation
0	Lack of participation/removal of student from rehearsal Unexcused absence

†Participation is based on how well a student follows the class expectations outlined above.

III. Assignments, Quizzes, Tests 25%

Points will be earned for any work assigned, including, but not limited to:

- Part checks
- Smart Music Assessments
- Journal entries
- Concert reviews
- Score marking
- Sight reading
- Music theory
- Part study at home
- Constructed responses
- Rhythm tests

Unless otherwise directed by Dr. Knauf, students should complete work individually. All students are expected to abide by the Reservoir Honor Code at all times and will be held accountable for any violations of the Honor Code.

Students may make up work missed due to an excused absence. Upon returning to school, students have as many days as were excused to make up the work. Students who miss work due to an *unexcused* absence are still expected to make up the work. Late work will be accepted for partial credit for one class period after the due date. After that, late work will not receive credit. Extra credit points may be offered on specific assignments or assessments, but no extra credit assignments will be offered.

Students who make the effort to attend a review session/tutorial during lunch or after school or complete an additional review assignment will be allowed to retake a quiz or test at least once per quarter.

The highest grades will be earned by hard-working and committed students; i.e., those who demonstrate leadership and personal integrity through behavior, posture, effort, and a positive attitude. Because this is a performance-based class, it is expected that students will devote time outside of school for rehearsals, practice, and performances. The director always maintains the right to remove any student from a performance if the student's preparation or behavior limits the effectiveness of that performance.

Graded assignments will be returned within 3 weeks. Grades and teacher comments may be checked through Canvas.

Grading Scale

89.5 – 100 % = A 79.5 – 89.4 % = B 69.5 – 79.4 % = C 59.5 – 69.4 % = D 0 – 59.4 % = E

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: www.rhsmusic.wikispaces.com

E-mail: gknauf@hcpss.org (e-mail is the best way to reach me)

Music Department phone: 410-888-8864

Remind texting service: Subscribe at www.remind.com/join/rhscon or text @rhscon to 703-687-1856 or 81010

CALENDAR

The Music Dept. calendar is available on the Music Dept. website and includes all rehearsals and performances. There is a PDF version for downloading/printing and a Google Calendar version that you can subscribe to. It is your responsibility to know when your ensemble is rehearsing or performing.

Concert Choir Syllabus & Grading Policy 2016-2017

Please sign and return this portion of the syllabus to the director, confirming that you have read and understood the expectations and policies of the Reservoir High School Concert Choir Class Syllabus and Grading Policy.

Student Name (print)

Date

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

☐ Please check this box if you would like to be added to the RHS Music Dept. e-mail listserv to receive important information throughout the year. Please legibly print the e-mail address(es) that you would like to subscribe below.

Parent/Guardian Name

e-mail address

Parent/Guardian Name

e-mail address